hana-mi presents

amatsuki 60

by Takayama Shinobu

translation edits by sarada

ARE YOU OKAY!? HEY, KID! WHO ARE YOU!?
SWISH
TAP
LET'S BE FRIENDS, 'KAY? WE'RE BOTH STUCK IN THIS WORLD, AFTER ALL.

I CAN ALMOST TOUCH THOSE RADIANT MEMORIES..
おまつば
Chapter 60
The Mugwort That Grows Among The Hemp, Part 4
TAKAYAMA SHINOBU

thump
thump
thump
stare
...
whisper
NOPE.
whisper
whisper
DO YOU SEE IT?
whisper
YEAH, I GUESS
whisper
WHY NOT? ISN'T THIS BUILDING A PART OF THE SHRINE TOO?
whisper
turn
turn
whisper
whisper
IT'S STILL OUT IN THE GARDEN, SO MAYBE IT CAN'T COME INSIDE.
I GUESS WE'RE OKAY.

NO, THE SHRINE BARRIER HAS ALREADY BEEN BROKEN.
BUT THAT DEMON IS CALLED "DORODAIBOU." IT'S A TYPE THAT LIVES IN THE GROUND.
SO IT CAN'T BE SEPARATED FROM THE EARTH.

OH!
SEE, I TOLD YOU IT WOULD BE GOOD TO HIDE IN THIS BUILDING.
YEAH, THAT WAS GREAT!
SO IS IT BECAUSE OF THE SHRINE'S BARRIER?

JEEZ
sigh
SO WE'RE SAFE HERE?
GUESS SO.
sigh
I SEE...
sigh

BLI
NK

awkward
silence

SAME HERE
Hmph!
THANKS FOR SAVING ME EARLIER
Hmph!
I JUST ACTED ON IM-PULSE
UM...
SO...
blush

staaaaaaaaaaaare
...
Really?
R..

CAN'T YOU SEE THAT, IDIOT!?
LIKE I JUST GOT STABBED!
How do you feel?
H..
Well..
So..
Um
blush

staaaaaaaaaaaare
...
Right.
Oh

HELP ME, HIZAME-SAMA!!
I give up!
sob
sob
sob
hmph.
OH DEAR ...

Oh ho ho
YOU MISSED THEM SO MUCH THAT YOU'RE MOVED TO TEARS.
BUT HAS IT REALLY BEEN SO LONG THAT YOU'VE FORGOTTEN HOW TO TALK TO EACH OTHER?

SO LONG. HUH? I JUST MET THE GUY!
"KUCHI-HA." WAS IT?
I'VE HEARD THAT NAME BEFORE. YOU'RE THAT MONK'S ANTISOCIAL LIVE-IN PUPIL.
ALL I DID WAS BRING HIM HIS LUNCH AND DINNER WHILE HE WAS LOCKED UP.
WELL... TOKI AND I HAVE KNOWN EACH OTHER A LITTLE LONGER THAN THAT.
BUT I'VE HAD SOMETHING ELSE TO DO FOR THE PAST TEN DAYS OR SO...
I SEE.
AND YOU'VE COME TO SHAMON-SAMA'S TEMPLE, SO I KNOW YOUR NAME AND FACE EVEN THOUGH WE HAVEN'T TALKED BEFORE.

SO TOKI'S THE LOSER WHO DECIDED WE WERE ALL FRIENDS.
SHRUG
GAH!!
HEY, NO PERSONAL ATTACKS!
Oh dear
SHOCK

AS FOR YOU TWO, DON'T YOU FEEL SOMETHING STRANGE?
WHINE
There, there
WHINE
I DON'T THINK THEY MEANT IT LIKE THAT.
THEY ARE IN AGREEMENT, THOUGH.

NOT REALLY
twitch
think
WELL...

PUT YOUR HEADS TOGET-HER?
PERHAPS IF YOU WERE TO

glance

glance

WELL, MAYBE AFTER WE GET OUT OF THIS BUILDING.
UM...
IS IT REALLY OKAY FOR US TO RUN AWAY WHEN THERE ARE INJURED PEOPLE HERE?
DON'T WORRY
ONCE THE YAKOU SEES THAT HE'S LOST HIS TARGET, HE'LL LEAVE
AND IT WILL BE DAWN SOON,
SO THE DEMONS WILL BE AT A GREAT DISAD-VANTAGE.
OH, REAL-LY?
It's already that late?
SO, IT'S BEST IF WE JUST STAY HERE AND CHAT TO KILL TIME.
?
I'D VERY MUCH LIKE TO SPEAK WITH YOU ALL.

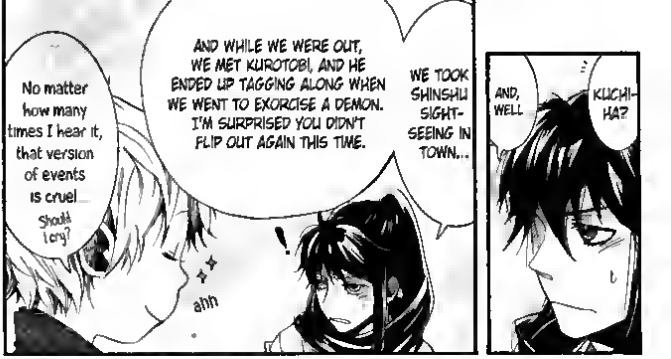
BUT PERHAPS YOU WILL FIND SOME COMMON GROUND BETWEEN THE THREE OF YOU.
flip
YOU TWO HAVE DIFFERENT MEMORIES,

I DON'T SEE THE POINT, BUT WHATEVER

HUH? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

I'VE BEEN IN SHAMON-SAMA'S CARE SINCE I WAS A KID. I SAVED TOKI WHEN HE WAS BEING ATTACKED BY THE NUE, SO HE'S BEEN LIVING WITH ME FOR A WHILE.
I CAME HERE WHEN... WELL... WHEN KANZOU CAME LOOKING FOR ME AT THE NAKAMURA-YA.
FINE. THEN, I CAME TO EDO FIVE YEARS AGO AND WORKED AT A RESTAURANT IN THE SLUM DISTRICT.
HALF A YEAR AGO I GOT A JOB AT THE SHRINE ON OLD MAN SHAMON'S RECOMMENDATION, AND I MOVED IN THERE.

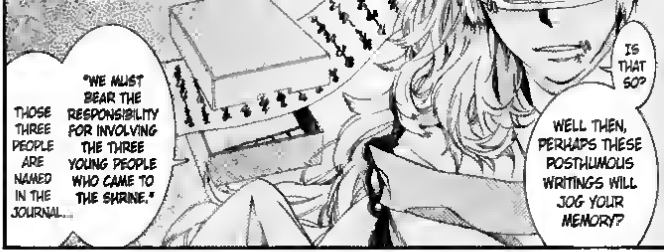
mumble
I HAVEN'T SEEN HIM SINCE WE SEPARATED.
mumble
I'VE ONLY KNOWN THIS GUY SINCE HE SHOWED UP FOUR DAYS AGO AND HE WAS IN JAIL FOR TWO OF THOSE DAYS!


No matter how many times I hear it, that version of events is cruel...
Should I cry?
AND WHILE WE WERE OUT, WE MET KUROTOBI, AND HE ENDED UP TAGGING ALONG WHEN WE WENT TO EXORCISE A DEMON. I'M SURPRISED YOU DIDN'T FLIP OUT AGAIN THIS TIME.
WE TOOK SHINSHU SIGHT-SEEING IN TOWN...
!
ahh
AND, WELL
KUCHI-HA?

I'VE HAD THIS WEIRD FEELING.
FOR SOME REASON...
IT'S PROB-ABLY WRONG
IS THAT RIGHT?

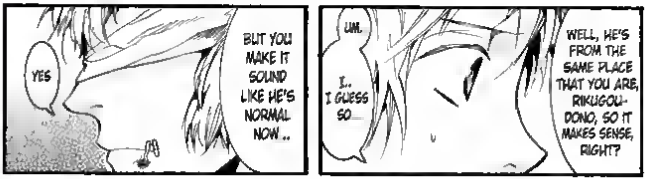
I'VE FELT SO ALONE AND HELPLESS EVER SINCE I CAME HERE...
IT'S NOT LIKE ME, BUT...
SOME-THING DOESN'T FIT... SOME-THING ISN'T RIGHT.
!

Was I...
One?
Two?
How many hands were holding mine?
sigh
Was I the one who let go?
STAAAAAAARE
SOB
Kuchi-ha...!!
wibble wibble
wibble
DON'T YOU FEEL SOMETHING IS OUT OF PLACE AS WELL?
NOT REALLY
AND KON..
KICK
GAHK!!
I'll keep you com-pany!!!!!


"WE MUST BEAR THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR INVOLVING THE THREE YOUNG PEOPLE WHO CAME TO THE SHRINE."
THOSE THREE PEOPLE ARE NAMED IN THE JOURNAL...
IS THAT SO?
WELL THEN, PERHAPS THESE POSTHUMOUS WRITINGS WILL JOG YOUR MEMORY?

THE FORMER UNWRITTEN PAGE.
WHAT?
THE INU-GAMI.
AND...
THE UN-WRITTEN PAGE

OH, RIKUGOU-DONO, YOU DIDN'T KNOW? HE WAS ALSO AN UNWRITTEN PAGE.
AND WHY IS IT "FORMER?"
"UN-WRITTEN PAGE?" WHAT THE HELL IS THAT?


YES
BUT YOU MAKE IT SOUND LIKE HE'S NORMAL NOW...
UM. I... I GUESS SO...
WELL, HE'S FROM THE SAME PLACE THAT YOU ARE, RIKUGOU-DONO, SO IT MAKES SENSE, RIGHT?

THE JOURNALS MENTION A "PREVIOUS" UNWRITTEN PAGE WHO APPEARED ABOUT A YEAR AGO.
ONLY A SMALL PORTION OF THE WRITINGS HAVE SURVIVED, SO LITTLE IS KNOWN ABOUT HIM.
...THIS JOURNAL IS A RECORD OF THE LIFE OF ONE WHO HAS DIED, SO WE CANNOT ASK FOR GREATER DETAIL.
BUT ENOUGH REMAINS THAT WE MAY GLEAN SOME INFORMATION FROM IT...

HIZAME-SAN... THE PERSON WHO LEFT THAT JOURNAL...
COULD IT BE... GINSHU-SAN?

HE MUST HAVE LEFT THESE WRITINGS IN THE HOPE THAT SOMEONE WOULD SUCEED HIM WHEN HE WAS GONE.
AND WE OF THE ONMYOU BUREAU NOW KNOW OF THIS PERSONAL HISTORY.

HE WAS A RESPECTED INTELLECTUAL...
THAT IS CORRECT.

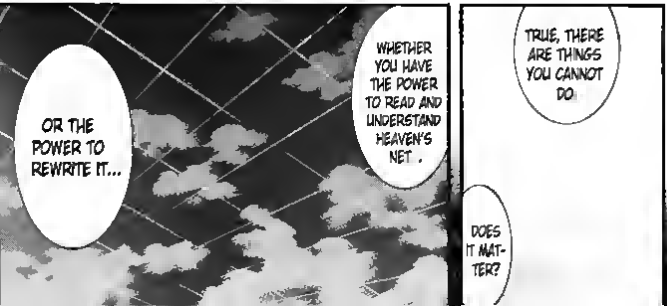
WELL, IN ALL OF THESE THERE'S ONE THING YOUR FRIEND WOULD LIKE TO HEAR, RIGHT?
BUT ...!!

BUT WHEN WE IDENTIFIED HIM, HE "BECAME A NORMAL HUMAN BEING."
ACCORDING TO THIS, "WE ARE AWARE OF THE EXISTENCE OF THE UNWRITTEN PAGE..."

I BELIEVE THE KEY POINT IS THIS: "WHEN WE FOCUSED OUR ATTENTION ON HIM, HE DISAPPEARED..."
ISN'T THAT SO?
"HE BECAME CAUGHT IN HEAVEN'S NET," IT SAYS...

WHEN YOU OPPOSE HEAVEN'S NET, YOU GO AGAINST THE WILL OF HEAVEN ITSELF.
IT'S SIMPLE.
DISAP-PEARED...?

RIKUGOU-DONO, YOU WILL ALSO BECOME A NORMAL PERSON.
giggle
giggle
IF YOU LOSE...
I CAN'T EVEN READ HEAVEN'S NET. .
BUT... BUT I CAN'T DO ANYTHING ...!


OR THE POWER TO REWRITE IT...
WHETHER YOU HAVE THE POWER TO READ AND UNDERSTAND HEAVEN'S NET .
TRUE, THERE ARE THINGS YOU CANNOT DO
DOES IT MAT-TER?

YOU ARE THE SAME AS TEITEN.
WH...
WHAT?
TEI-TEN?
UNWRITTEN PAGE?
I DON'T HAVE ANY FUCKING CLUE WHAT YOU PEOPLE ARE TALKING ABOUT!

But, why?
What if they're lying to me?
What if...
I...
I'M JUST A REGULAR GUY, NOT LIKE YOU FREAKS...!!
EVERYTHING THE HOLY PRINCESS WROTE ABOUT HAS BEEN OVERWRITTEN.
AND IT WAS DONE ALMOST PERFECTLY
LIKE IT'S A CANDLE THAT'S BEEN SNUFFED
OH WELL.
IF THERE WAS ANYTHING YOU COULD DO, THEN WE SHOULD HAVE TALKED TO THE OLD YOU.
What am I...?

KON? ARE YOU OKAY?
YOU DON'T LOOK SO GOOD.
WHAT ...
WHAT DID YOU USED TO CALL ME?
SHINO-NOME.
UM... JUST "KON", I THINK.
SHIMON-SAMA MIGHT HAVE CALLED YOU "PUNK-ASS KID."

"Shinonome Ren."

That's what they're calling me.

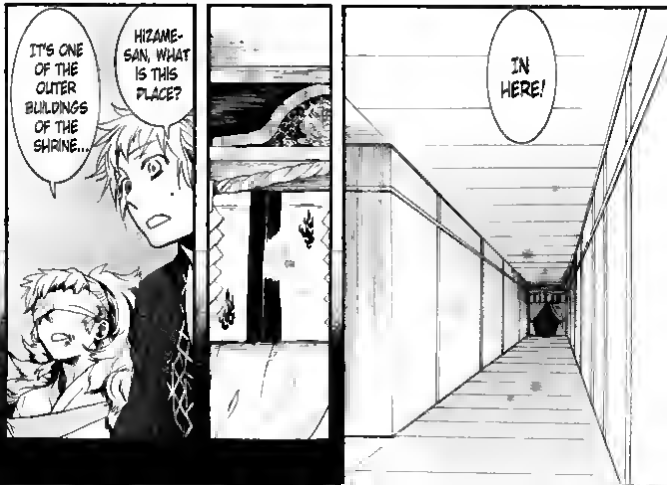
Why does it feel so right?

IT MUST HAVE BEEN HIS
IT WAS IN MY ROOM. BUT IT WASN'T MINE.
Everything is wrong here...
OH!
rustle
H..
HERE IT IS
EYE-PATCH?
THE EYE-PATCH...
AND, UM...
THE OTHER NIGHT, KON BROUGHT IT BACK TO ME.
IT'S MINE, BUT BACK THEN I LEFT IT WITH SHINONOME.
glow
gasp

AH...
glow
WHAT'S THAT?
BUTTER-FLIES?
?
flutter
flutter
TH...
THAT'S IT!
THESE ARE GINSHU-SAN'S BUTTERFLIES!
BUT...
WHERE ARE THEY COMING FROM...?
OH?
THE HOLY PRINCESS' BUTTER-FLIES, YOU SAID?
Um..
That's just my hypothesis...
I really don't know what they are~~~

W... WAH! THEY'RE DISINTE-GRATING...
BUT WHY!?
BUT ANYWAY, I DO KNOW THEY'RE IMPORTANT!!

HEY, WHERE'S THAT LIGHT COMING FROM?
IT LOOKS LIKE THEY WERE INSIDE TOKI'S EYEPATCH...


IT'S ONE OF THE OUTER BUILDINGS OF THE SHRINE...
HIZAME-SAN, WHAT IS THIS PLACE?
IN HERE!

IT LEADS TO THE HEAD-QUARTERS OF THE BUREAU OF DIVINATION.
BUT WHY...
DOES IT SMELL LIKE BLOOD IN HERE?
NO WAY.
THE DEMONDS MADE IT THIS FAR?
WAIT,
YOU THREE.

I CAN'T RUN WITH THESE LEGS, SO LEAVE ME AND GO DOWN THERE, QUICKLY.
THIS IS WHY SASAKI-DONO AND SEVERAL SKILLED SUBORDINATES ARE SUPPOSED TO BE GUARDING THIS PLACE...
SHIN-SHU-SAMA...
AND THAT THING...
SLAM
WILL MEET.

SFX: "SHOCK"
SFX: "GROWL"

SFX: "GROWL"
SFX: "GASP"
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